

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

FOOTBALL
CLUB

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DIVISION FOUR



VICTORIA GROUND



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Wigan Athletic

15p

TUESDAY, 2nd OCTOBER 1979. KICK-OFF 7.15 p.m.

HARTLEPOOL UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



Secretary:

W. P. Hillan, 18 Scarborough
Street, Hartlepool. Tel. 3492

Manager:

B. Horner, Victoria Ground,
Hartlepool. Tel. 72584

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George Smith

From The Chair

ALTHOUGH we started September with home wins over Aldershot and Darlington the month didn't turn out to be a very good one for us.

After those two victories, we lost at Walsall and Wigan and only managed a draw at home to Torquay. I have no doubt that many supporters will have been bitterly disappointed by these results. If they were they will know how I felt.

Billy Horner is the manager and anything to do with the team is his responsibility. If he wants to sign new players, he comes to me and asks if the money required is available.

But that is the end of my involvement. However, I feel the disappointment as much as he does.

The annoying factor in these September results was that we could and should have won all the games. We had the chances to do so, but didn't take enough of them, yet at the other end we seemed to fall into the habit of giving away soft goals.

It is very frustrating for the manager to see this happen, and just as frustrating for me when he and I have spent hours, days, weeks and even months working together for a brighter future for Hartlepool.

However, we are determined that we can't sit back and hope that the club does something positive about it. They say the best time to buy is when you are on top, and this may be so but that doesn't mean to say that you shouldn't buy when things aren't going well.

I am sure you will agree with me when I say that there is a lot of promise within the club, and if you do, you will also agree that we would be making a foolish mistake if we failed to do everything possible to bring out this potential.

So I appeal to all of you to be a little patient and give us a chance to put things right. Let's all get behind the team and cheer them on to a revenge win over Wigan tonight.

J. V. BARKER,
Chairman

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PEN PICTURES

KEVIN SMART (Defender):

Joined Wigan from Plymouth Argyle prior to the start of the 1978/79 season. Kevin now has over 70 league games to his credit. A gritty player, he is always involved and can be relied upon to give 100 per cent effort wherever he plays.

NEIL DAVIDS (Defender):

Big Neil has seen service with a number of clubs at Football League level, and has become a popular figure with the Wigan fans following his arrival from Swansea City last year. Strong, rock like figure, Neil brings determination to the defence.

DAVID FRETWELL (Defender):

David has made 253 appearances for Bradford City before joining Wigan on a free transfer in the early part of last season. A cool, efficient professional, who does a magnificent job without any fuss at the heart of the Wigan defence. His experience was invaluable to last year's Football League newcomers. Wigan hope he will add many more appearances to the 35 games he has already played in the blue and white shirts.

JOE HINNIGAN (Defender):

23 years of age and with 44 very promising Football League appearances behind him, Joe is definitely a player to watch for the future. He has already attracted the attention of several league clubs, who are no doubt impressed by his ability to snatch vital goals as well as his cool defensive play.

TOMMY GORE (Midfield):

Player of the year in the eyes of Wigan supporters for the past two seasons and runner-up in last year's Fourth Division Player of the Year competition. Tommy is a vital cog in Wigan's team play. Loves to attack, and can bring

the crowd to its feet with his forceful shooting. Released by Tranmere in 1974 he has matured into one of the best midfield players to wear the Wigan shirt in post-war years.

FRANK CORRIGAN (Midfield):

Frank made 50 appearances last season in Division Four, to add to the wealth of non-league experience gained principally with Northwich Victoria and the Wigan club. Always at his best when pushing forward in support.

MICKY MOORE (Forward):

After serving Wigan well as a non-league player, Micky joined Port Vale in 1978, and played 13 games in the Vale shirt without ever settling into a front - running position. Re-joined Wigan at the start of last season, and made 43 appearances scoring 10 goals.

PETER HOUGHTON (Forward):

A strong, aggressive striker, who was unlucky with injuries in 1978/9. Nevertheless Peter scored 14 goals in 31 appearances, and he is expected to notch many more as Wigan make the push for Third Division football during the coming season.

DEREK BROWNBILL (Forward):

Signed from Port Vale, this ex-Liverpool striker enjoyed a good spell with Wigan last year. Now, with over 100 league appearances and 19 goals to his credit, Derek is looking to an even better year ahead.

IAN PURDIE (Forward):

The magician in the Wigan attack, Ian can destroy any defence when "on song". Scored 11 goals last season from 51 appearances on the left flank. An ex-Scottish under-23 international, who had service with Aberdeen, Dundee and Motherwell, from which he joined Wigan last year.

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Northern Intermediate League

AFTER a start to the Northern Intermediate League season which has seen the young Hartlepool side miss out on a number of points because of bad luck, it was a pleasant change for us all to concentrate on the F.A. Youth Cup last week-end.

Because some of our regular N.I.L. players are too old for the Youth Cup, we had to make a few changes—but we came through very well with a fine 6-0 win away to Farsley Celtic, who are rated, I am told, as one of the best junior sides in their area of West Yorkshire.

The star of a fine team performance was Paul Staff, who has already had a couple of tastes of Fourth Division football as substitute this season.

Paul scored twice and caused the home defence all sorts of problems with his pace and control. He is a fine example of my theory that we can't afford to push young players too much.

Many Hartlepool supporters might have hoped that after a couple of games as substitute he might have earned a place in the team. I feel that he may well do so in time, but it would be wrong to rush him.

Manager Billy Horner agrees, and he does not want to fall into the trap of expecting too much too soon from young players like Paul. He and many others on the club's books are very good players, but a lot of their potential can be knocked out of them if we try to bring them on too fast.

This is why the Northern Intermediate League is the ideal foundation for young players. They are generally playing against top youngsters of their own age and will not usually receive too much physical attention.

Patience is the key word in the development of young players, no matter how good they are.

WIGAN ATHLETIC



STATISTICS

Home Fixtures in Bold Score in Superior ● Denotes substituted players

1979 - 1980

[illegible]

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BILLY HORNER'S VIEWPOINT

I HAVE had a very busy start to the season from many points of view, and because of work in the office at the Victoria Ground and elsewhere I haven't been able to spend as much time with the players as I would have liked to.

Things came to something of a head in fact, when we played at Wigan just a fortnight ago, and I am hoping that for tonight's return the players can up for the mistakes made in that game.

I think Wigan will agree that they were rather fortunate to beat us 2-1 on the night. Having lost their first three home games of the season, they were naturally in a very nervous state and for about an hour we were the better side.

Then they scored two quick goals out of the blue helped by mistakes we made and our only goal scored later by Keith Houchen turned out to be nothing more than a consolation for the team and reward for Keith after looking the best forward on the pitch.

It was after this game that I stated in the Press that I felt the club stood at a major crossroads. It was my view that we either had to make a determined effort to strengthen our squad or we should be prepared to face the rest of the season fearing that similar results would crop up from time to time.

If you read the newspapers, you will know that since then we have made great efforts to sign new players and at the time of writing these notes things were looking very hopeful.

It was because of the talks and telephone calls all managers have to make when they are moving into the market that I have been stuck in my office at times when the players have been training.

However I am fortunate in that the players all train very well and that we have people like George Smith and Willie Maddren with the club who do such good jobs on the coaching side. It was always difficult for George because he is a player as well, but the arrival of Willie has made a big difference for him and me.

A willing worker, a knowledgeable man, and a great personality, he has shown already that he has been one of the club's best signings. The only regret is that he can't play, because I'm sure that he would much prefer to be out there on a match day with the rest of the players than watching from the touch-line.

However, for such a young man Willie seems to have adjusted remarkably. He is as keen for Hartlepool to do well as we all are.

I can only hope that by now I will have something to show for my efforts and the problems I believe exist in the squad will be repaired.

From the chairman down, everybody at the Victoria Ground must be aiming for one thing—success. If he doesn't have that aim, he shouldn't be here, and he shouldn't even be involved in professional football.

KNIGHT~FLETCHER

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TEAM SHEET

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

- 1—John WATSON
- 2—Alan SWEENEY
- 3—Graham NORMANTON
- 4—George SMITH
- 5—Steve BROOKES
- 6—Billy AYRE
- 7—Mark LAWRENCE
- 8—Keith HOUCHEN
- 9—Bob NEWTON
- 10—Alan HARDING
- 11—Derek LOADWICK

WIGAN

- 1—Chris SHIKE
- 2—Kevin SMART
- 3—Joe HINNIGAN
- 4—Tommy GORE
- 5—Neal DAVIDS
- 6—Dave FRETWELL
- 7—Frank CORRIGAN
- 8—Jeff WRIGHT
- 9—Derek BROWNBILL
- 10—Micky MOORE
- 11—Peter HOUGHTON

NEXT HOME GAME

HARTLEPOOL UNITED versus SCUNTHORPE UNITED

Tuesday, October 9th, 1979

Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

Officials

TERRY L. MORRIS (Leeds):

Started refereeing in 1957 in Rotherham then continued via local leagues to the Northern Premier League and then the Football League list. Linesman for European Cup Winners Cup in 1976, refereed the North League Champions v. Southern League Champions in 1976, and the Anglo-Italian competition in 1977. The Queen's Jubilee game between Leeds United and Ajax in 1977, the West Riding County Cup Final, Linesman Semi-Final and Referee F.A. Vase Final in 1978.

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